

# As Long as the Grass Shall Grow

words & music by Twilo Scofield  
© 1977 Twilo Scofield

I have included no Native-American ballads out of respect for the private and spiritual nature of Indian songs. However, I have chosen to include the following song by Twilo Scofield, an Oregon resident. The words were inspired by Native American speeches, appearing in the excellent collection by T.C. McLuhan, Touch the Earth (New Press, Toronto: 1971). Included are paraphrases of speeches given by two Northwest Indian leaders: Nez Perce Chief Joseph and Chief Dan George, a hereditary chief of the Coast Salish. Thanks to Oregon folklorist Barre Toelken for introducing me to this fine song.

The musical score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The time signature is 3/4. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words underlined. Chords are indicated by letters (F, Bb, C7) above or below the staff. The score is divided into a verse and a chorus. The verse consists of the first two lines of music. The chorus begins with the third line of music and includes the words 'chorus:' above the staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

We first knew you as a fee-ble tree that needed a  
place to grow. We could have trod you  
un-der our feet, But we taught you the  
ways that we know. As long as the sun will  
shine, As long as the ri-vers may flow, As  
long as the moon will rise, As  
long as the grass shall grow.

Good words and broken promises, you gave, and we trusted you.  
You came to live in peace, you said, and that's all that we wanted too.

You lit our lodges for your campfires, in the ashes left dust and blood.  
We thought half our land would satisfy you, but we found that it never would.

You left us like birds with broken wings, all scattered like stones on the ground.  
But in silent fields and pathless woods, our dreams and our spirits are found.

For we have known when the forests were free, and the wind spirits roamed our land,  
And everything that was needed for life, we took with a gentle hand.

The sky is round and the earth is round, and the sun and the stars and the moon.  
The seasons all move in a circle too, and our spring will come again soon.

